

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Karaoguz. Claims 1 and 6 are currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Karaoguz because it implements a distributed technique for controlling associations between access points and stations. Karaoguz teaches a centralized system for controlling a WLAN. Access Points gather information from stations and send that information to a central server. Para. 0024. The central server then analyzes the information to reconfigure the WLAN. Para. 0026. In contrast, according to the presently claimed invention reconfiguration decisions are made by the access points. Advantages of the claimed technique are improved scalability and avoidance of a single point of failure. This distinguishing feature is recited in claim 1 as “A program product **in an access point** ... logic for evaluating the parameters to produce an evaluation; logic for selecting one of the stations based at least in-part on the evaluation; and logic for prompting the selected station to become associated with the access point in order to gain network access via the access point.” (emphasis added) Claim 6 recites similar language, with the additional limitation that at least one parameter comes from the station message and at least one parameter does not come from the station message. If one were to follow the teaching of Karaoguz, the evaluating and selecting logic would be executed by the central server. For the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-5 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

/Holmes W. Anderson/
Holmes W. Anderson, Reg. No. 37272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664

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